







## Extracts.

**DOWN THE SHADOWED LANE.**  
Down the shadowed lane she goes,  
And her arms are laden  
With the woodland and willows—  
Happy little maiden!  
Sweetly, sweetly, loth she sings  
As the lark shows her;  
Surely every living thing  
That has seen me, loves her.  
  
As the day grew and the sun,  
Happy little maid, so long,  
With wild flowers laden,  
Chanced a young youth that way,  
For the laves were shady;  
She dropped on her flowers, they say,  
Did this little fay.  
  
Dropped a flower, as they say!  
Dropped, and never raised it;  
At the youth, alighted?—  
Now in sweet land wandering,  
With love-laden bairns,  
With her love she strays and sighs,  
Happy little maiden!  
  
—Tinsley's Magazine.

## THE INFLUENCE OF ARCTIC COLD ON MAN.

Lieutenant Payer, the Austrian Arctic explorer, was laying some of the results of his explorations before the Geographical Society at Vienna. Referring to the influence of extreme cold on the human organism, he related that on March 14, 1874, he and his companions made a sledgy journey over the Samikht glacier, in order to make observations of Francis-Joseph Land. On that day the cold marked forty degrees (Reaumur) below zero. Notwithstanding this intense cold, Mr. Payer and his party went into houses to make observations and sketch. The sun was magnificent; the sun seemed surrounded, as it does at a high degree of cold, by small suns, and it did not appear more dazzling from the contrast with the extreme cold. The travellers were obliged to pour down their throats as not to touch the edge of the metal tanks, which would have been dangerous as they had been red hot; but the sun had lost all its strength and its liquidity, and was as flat and thick as oil. It was impossible to smoke either cigars or tobacco in short pipes, for very soon nothing but a piece of ice remained in the mouth. The metal of the instruments was just like red-hot iron to the touch, as were some locks, which some of the travellers romantically, but imprudently, continued to wear next the skin. Mr. Payer says that so great an amount of cold paralyses the will, and that, under its influence, men, from the unsteadiness of their gait, their staggering talk, and the drowsiness of the mental operations seem as if they were intoxicated. Another effect of cold is a tormenting thirst, which is due to the evaporation of the moisture of the body. It is an incentive to do no harm to the thirst, yet it brings an inflammation of the throat, palate, and tongue. Besides, enough can never be taken to quench the thirst; as a temperature of 30° to 40° below zero makes it taste like molten metal. Snow-eaters in the North are considered as feeble and effeminate, in the same way as an opium-eater in the East. The groups of travellers who traversed the snow-fields were surrounded by thick vapours formed by the emanations from their bodies, which became condensed, notwithstanding the furs in which the travellers were enveloped. These vapours tell to the ground with a slight noise, frozen into the form of small crystals, and rendered the atmosphere thin, impenetrable, and dark. Notwithstanding the humidity of the air, a disagreeable sensation of dryness was felt. Every sound diffused itself to a very long distance; an ordinary conversation could be heard at a hundred paces, yet, though the report of guns from the top of high mountains could scarcely be heard. Mr. Payer explains this phenomenon by the large quantity of moisture in the Arctic atmosphere. Meat could be dropped and marred used in the shape of balls. Both small and taste become greatly affected in these latitudes, strength gives way under the paralytic influence of the cold, the eyes involuntarily close and become frozen. When locomotion stops the sole of the foot becomes insensible. It is somewhat curious that the beard does not freeze, but this is explained from the air expired falling immediately transformed into snow. The cold causes dark beards to become lighter; the secretions of the eyes and noses always increase, whilst the formation of perspiration altogether ceases. The only possible protection against the cold is to be very warmly clothed, and to endeavour as much as possible to prevent the condensation of the atmosphere, whilst the much-wanted plans of anointing and blackening the body are pronounced to have no real value.—London Medical Record.

## SKATING RINKS.

The most infatuating of all winter sports has been placed within our reach at all seasons of the year. The most infatuated, I have been a skater, man and boy, for fifty years; but for the greater part of that time my pleasure has been in imagination only, so many winters have passed without ice, or where ice was spoilt, by snow, or perhaps by roughs and hockeys, or where ponds were not, or even when ill-used interfered with the few, the very few, wished for days. Winter after winter, every brother skater has been as a kindred soul, and we both vowed to look out for ice and give each other the earliest information; and yet how often has the sun reigned in power, and, with lengthening days, left us to dream of skating for the year to come! With this taste for the real thing—for skating proper—with what feelings do I receive the tidings of this new invention?

—Most incredulously; even with contempt! I had seen the old india-rubber wheels have their day, in spite of their success at the open, in the bad pastures, and I had once ploughed my way through some heavy substrate of soap and alum thirty years since at the Baker-street Bazaar; so I thought I could prove a negative as to the possibility of sellers under foot being endurable to one who knew the ring and the elasticity of real deep blue ice. But soon I found two of the best skaters of the day delighted with those "rolling abominations," as once I had heard them called. Yes, and delighted before they knew one-fifth part of the power they command, when use has reduced the friction to a minimum. I have now watched the Brighton rink, and sometimes five hundred skaters at a time, for one year, yet even within the last few weeks I have been surprised at the increasing powers and facilities of roller-skaters. For ten years has this skating been known in America, till every large city has its skating hall, often with a sixth part the size of Prince's, and under cover too; but now did Mr. Plumbon see open-air roller-skating, nor skating continued all the year round, till he saw the Brighton rink, which Mr. Prince so promptly copied. For ten years has a Yankee, "as acute as a wasp," load of monkeys, tried in vain to invent any other skate to divide the profits of the Plumbon patent. To make a skate admitting of all the powers of the ice-skater, simple enough to be used by those of the meanest comprehension, not too costly for the average purse, and not too ingenious; complicated, or brittle for the roughest wear—all this was comprised in the problem to be worked, and a marvel of ingenuity too. Tell any mechanic that four wheels, as on a child's horse, are made to turn almost like the turn-table of a carriage, and subjected to all the twisting and wrenching of the most violent skating, with strains lateral as vertical, and he will hardly believe that such a

combination can stand the necessary wear and tear. But so it is. There is no figure skated by the London Skating Club which we have not proved to be possible on the Brighton rink. Gentlemen well known have already private rinks, with a limited concession from Mr. Plumbon. "Ten and sixteen, 4 p.m." is their usual invitation; and all this evidence of the exercise being a new British institution, and not the mere fancy of a day, has work of a single year. It is little more than a year since that, at the Core Exchange (part of the Pavilion), Brighton, this skating was first exhibited so far as to attract general attention. True, at Liverpool, and at Bath it had been introduced, but this was comparatively in a corner. Brighton was the centre from which it first radiated. It was then commenced, on the 19th of February, 1874, in the only form then known to Mr. Plumbon—that is, under cover, and as an exercise simply for the winter months—on a wooden floor. But, in the month of May, the rink made at Hove two years before for ice-skating had been drained of its water, the concreted floor proved available, and ladies—ladies, with parcels over their heads and states under their feet, and the floor presenting quite the appearance of ice—produced a novel and incongruous, but at the same time a most pleasing, spectacle.—Belgrave.

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## A BROKERAGE OF THIRTY-THREE AND ONE-HUNDRED PER CENT.

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